



Wright

The University of Melbourne

Parkville, N.2.

~~Carlton, N.3.~~

8th February 1960

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

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REW.CM

4/12/60 ✓

Dear Josh and Esther,

Thanks a lot for the little dolls you sent with Mr. and Mrs. Lund for the kids. They made quite a hit with Astri though Siri doesn't think much of hers since it has no arms or legs for her to pull off and is too bulbous to get into her mouth. However she's rapidly approaching the stage when she realizes that there are more things in life than that.

Mr. Lund flew back on January 20th - hardly worth the trip I think - but we were able to show him a bit of the country while he was here. I had belatedly arranged a special tour of the Snowy scheme which I think he would have enjoyed but we couldn't go in the time available after we got back from Adelaide. All of the folks in Adelaide send their best wishes to you both. Leigh, my brother, is in the States at present for a couple of months. Think he will spend 1 month in Milwaukee and 1 month touring. He left Kelvinator about a year ago and is doing very well with the new firm - Lovelocks, refrigeration control equipment.

Mrs. Lund is still here and enjoying herself. She will probably go home after Siri's birthday, March 7th, and I will leave about the same time for Canberra. Mari and the girls will stay here at least until I can get organized up there.

Yes, I finally received the official word from C.S.I.R.O. Head Office of my appointment - and a very good one too - a couple of days ago; although I have known about it for a long time. Many thanks Josh for your recommendation and I would like you to know that I have never felt more confident of half-way living up to the reputation which you apparently created for me when you were in Australia. I will try not to let you down.

Haven't had a reply from you to my letter of 21st October, but have since exchanged many letters with Ephrussi. Can't remember if I managed to scribble off a few lines to you since then but I certainly don't have a copy of any other letter. Would very much like to have

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your comments on the proposed scheme of petiteness. Ephrussi doesn't like the location of the episome at the segregational locus (loci - he tells me) but in the absence of further experiments of the type which I outlined in my letter I think this is still a matter of personal choice. Unfortunately he no longer has any neutral R^- which arose by cloning of suppressives so the first test I outlined, and the most direct I think, is not immediately possible. Anyway I realize that our proposal may not be the correct, or only, one but will be very interested to see how it turns out. Unfortunately, again, I will not be able to carry on with this. If I was going to continue working with yeast, the best place would undoubtedly be at Gif, but I am too interested in not losing touch with the Australian scientific scene again and also in the possibilities of the Rhizobium work to go back there, although Ephrussi has indicated that the general conditions would be much better than last time if I wanted to come.

See by "Time" that there is evidence for transfer of malignancy with polyoma(?) DNA. Is this good?

Also in my last letter, I asked about possibilities for graduate work on phage in the States. You may remember I mentioned a chap called Barry Egan who is currently writing up his Master's thesis. He is doing quite well and has a map of 5 or 6 loci in a Pseudomonas phage. Three of these are lysogenic-cooperation loci, the rest various other plaque types. I wrote to Larry about him and Barry sent details of his academic record. Got a reply from Larry today saying that he is definitely interested but wonders if Egan couldn't do better than at Denver Med. School. Larry said he had written to you and if you have any other suggestions I would also like to hear directly as time is running out for Fulbright travel grant applications, etc.

How about your P.N.A.S. pedigree paper?

I am going like steam trying to finish here by the end of the month. The phenanthroline and other complexes which I mentioned last time are taking most of my time and are very interesting. We have now tested quite a large series and some interesting findings on relationship between "petitogenic" activity and structure should emerge when we get time to look at the results as a whole.

Have also found that some of these compounds produce stable small colony types in Staph. These don't respond to increased CO_2 concentration and may be similar to the resp-def. mutants obtained by Gause (U.S.S.R.) with U.V. and urethane. I want to examine their cytochromes and do a couple of other things with them before I leave here but will be really pushing to get through. Also want to repeat

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the, single cell —> small clone —> small R⁻ colony, experiment with Ephrussi's stocks which I have just received, and will then write up the suppressiveness work with Ephrussi for publication. Will definitely have to shelve my Streptomyces enzyme work but will be able to work on a couple of small things like that once I get into the slot in Canberra.

Must away to test some more compounds. Hope to hear from you soon, particularly re Egan.

Kindest Regards,

Rob.